GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2235
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
PRIVATISATION OF HEALTH SERVICES
C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to privatize the maximum health services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the details of the guidelines and instructionsfor prompt and effective treatment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): The National Health Policy - 2002 welcomes the participation of the private sector in all the areas of health activities - primary, secondary and tertiary - with suitable regulatory mechanisms. Health is a State subject. Therefore, States are free to decide on privatization of their health care system. However, the private sector is increasingly participating in the delivery of health care including the national programmes like TB, Blindness, HIV/AIDS, amongst others.Private practitioners, especially specialists are hired on contract basis to provide specialist care in primary health centres under the Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Programme so as to improve access to RCH services. Some other forms of participation include, inter-alia, part time hiring of general practitioners and specialists to visit and provide health care in Primary Health Centres/ Community Health Centres in under-served areas and outsourcing of non-clinical services like diet, laundry, cleaning and security. The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) also engages some private hospitals for providing treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries.

(c): Instructions are periodically issued to hospitals for appropriate and prompt treatment of patients. A hospital manual has been prepared by the Central Government for providing guidance for smooth running of hospitals. Citizen`s Charter has also been adopted by some Central Government hospitals with client focus in order to increase awareness of patients and ensure prompt redressal of their grievances.